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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Applicant(s): Narasimhaswamy, et al:  
Serial No: 09/558,192 Group Art Unit: 2133  
Filed: 04/26/2000 Examiner: Colin, Carl G.  
Title: ON-LINE INVENTION DISCLOSURE APPROVAL SYSTEM  
Docket No.: 199-1408 (FGT-1307 PA)

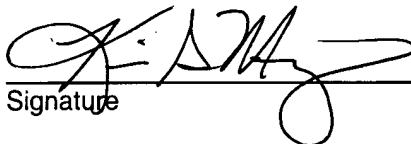
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Kevin G. Mierzwa

**BRIEF ON APPEAL**

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Sir:

The following Appeal Brief is submitted pursuant to the Notice of Appeal filed on  
September 17, 2004, for the above-identified application.

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## **I. Real Party in Interest**

The real party in interest in this matter is Ford Global Technologies, LLC, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ford Motor Company both in Dearborn, Michigan (hereinafter "Ford").

## **II. Related Appeals and Interferences**

There are no other known appeals or interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

## **III. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-33 and 37-41 stand rejected in the Final Office Action. A copy of the claims on appeal is attached as an Appendix.

## **IV. Status of Amendments Filed After Final**

There have been no amendments filed subsequent to the advisory action.

## **V. Summary of the Invention**

A high level system view of the system is illustrated in Figure 1. The details of Figure 1 are described on pages 6-9. A flow chart illustrating the flow of data is illustrated in Figure 2 which is described on pages 9-12.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of forming an online invention disclosure comprising forming an invention disclosure online by entering a plurality of selected information including a first inventor identification information from a user computer 14. As the plurality of selected information is entered into the user computer, the selected information is stored into a central storage location. Approval is prompted and after approval, the disclosure is locked to prevent further editing of the disclosure. The approval is described on page 14, lines 1-24. The locking of the disclosure is described on page 14, line 25 through page 15, line 4.

Claim 2 further refines claim 1 and recites the further step of generating an approval log. The approval log is set forth as step 126 in Figure 3.

Claim 3 refines claim 2 and recites that generating an approval log comprises recording the date of an approval.

Claim 4 further refines claim 3 and recites that the approval log is associated with the disclosure.

Claim 5 recites that forming an invention disclosure online is performed by a non-inventor author. This may be the case when another person enters the information for an inventor who does not have access to a computer.

Claim 6 further refines claim 1 and comprises identifying a second inventor, notifying the second inventor and prompting the second inventor to approve the invention disclosure.

Claim 6 is further refined by claim 7 and recites revising the second disclosure by the second inventor to form a revised disclosure and prompting the first inventor to approve the revised disclosure.

Claim 8 further refines claim 6 and recites that when prompting the second inventor comprises an e-mail to the second inventor. The steps of Figures 6-8 are set forth in steps 122 and 124 of Figure 3.

Claim 9 further refines claim 1 and recites that prompting comprises prompting the approval of an associated document.

Claim 10 recites wherein the associated document may be a group consisting of an assignment document and a power of attorney. The associated document approval of claims 9 and 10 are set forth in lines 20-24 of page 14 of the specification.

Claim 11 recites the step of allowing access to various users for obtaining the information.

Claim 12 sets forth an invention disclosure system that includes a user computer 14, a web server 12 having an identification subsystem. One example of the identification subsystem is the web single log-in box 30 of Figure 1. Claim 12 also recites that the server provides user screens to the users so users provide disclosure information to the server, receive disclosure information from said user, storing information in the database and prompting the user to provide a password associated with the disclosure. The server also allows access to the disclosure after storing information in the database upon entering the password associated with the disclosure. It should be noted in claim 12 that the password is associated with the *disclosure* rather than a particular user. This allows each of the inventors to use the same password to access the particular disclosure. As set forth on page 8 of the specification, lines 6-8, a password may be established for each disclosure during the initial entry into the system. As mentioned above, the password may allow each user to access the invention disclosure individually.

Claim 13 further recites a directory system coupled to the server whereby upon providing identification information to the server the server retrieves the user information from the directory system in response to the identification information. This is set forth in Figure 3 as step 104. Also, this is shown in boxes 50, 52 of Figure 2.

Claim 14 recites that the server creates a user log.

Claim 15 further recites that the server associates the approval log with the disclosure. This is set forth on page 14 as mentioned above.

Claim 16 recites an invention disclosure system that includes a server and a database 18 coupled to the server 12. The server 12 provides user screens to the users to prompt the users to provide disclosure information to the server. The server receives the disclosure information from the users including a first inventor identification and a second inventor identification. The server stores the information in the database, prompts the first inventor and the second inventor to provide an approval, the server then locks the disclosure to prevent further editing after the approval by the first inventor and the second inventor. The disclosure locking process is set forth on page 14 of the disclosure.

Claim 17 further refines claim 16 and recites an approval log associated with the disclosure. The approval log is described on lines 18-20 of page 14.

Claim 18 further recites that the server associates the approval log with the disclosure. This is described above with respect to claim 9.

Claim 19 recites that a directory system is coupled to the server whereby providing information to the server, the server retrieves user information from the directory system in response to the identification information. The directory server is set forth as block 16 of Figure 1.

Claim 20 is similar to claim 16 in method form. Claim 20 recites forming an invention disclosure online by entering a plurality of selected information including a first inventor identification information and a second inventor identification from a user computer. As the selected plurality of information is entered into the user computer, storing the information in a central location. Claim 20 also recites prompting the approval of the first inventor, notifying the second inventor, and prompting the second inventor to approve the disclosure. This is generally set forth in steps 122, 124 of Figure 3. Claim 20 also recites the step of locking the disclosure to create a locked disclosure to prevent further editing of the disclosure when the second inventor approves the disclosure. The locking of the disclosure is described on page 14 of the present application.

Claim 21 recites the step of creating an approval log. The approval log as mentioned above, is set forth on page 14 of the specification.

Claim 22 further refines claim 21 wherein the step of generating an approval log comprises the step of recording the date of an approval.

Claim 23 recites associating the approval log with the disclosure. This is set forth on page 14, lines 25 through page 15, line 4.

Claim 24 is a further limitation of claim 6 and recites locking the disclosure when the second user approves the disclosure.

Claim 25 further limits claim 7 and recites locking the disclosure when the first user approves the revised invention disclosure.

Claim 26 refines claim 8 and sets forth wherein providing an e-mail to the second inventor comprises providing an e-mail to the second inventor having a hyperlink to the disclosure. The hyperlink to the disclosure is set forth on page 12, line 8 of the present specification.

Claim 27 recites entering a plurality of information including one or more inventor identifications from one or more inventors to form an invention disclosure from a user computer 14, storing the information in a central storage location 20, prompting approval of one or more inventors, and locking the disclosure to create a locked disclosure to prevent editing of the disclosure after each of the one or more inventors approves the disclosure. This claim is similar to claim 20 in terms of approval and locking the disclosure.

Claim 28 further recites generating an approval log. This is set forth on page 14 as described above.

Claim 29 recites that the approval log comprises a recording date of an approval from each of one or more of the inventors.

Claim 30 recites associating the approval log with the disclosure. The elements of claims 28-30 are similar to claims 21-23 above.

Claim 31 recites that the prompting comprises providing an e-mail to one or more inventors. This is similar to claims described above.

Claim 32 recites that the e-mail comprises a hyperlink to the disclosure therein. This also is similar to claims described above.

Claim 33 is an independent claim and recites forming an invention disclosure online by entering a plurality of selected information including a first user identification information from a first computer 14. Claim 33 further recites storing the selected information in a central storage location, prompting approval of the first user, generating an approval log

comprising a date of approval by all inventors and associating the approval log with the document.

Claim 37 further refines claim 33 and recites that the step of forming comprises identifying a second user and further comprising the steps of notifying the second user and prompting the second user to approve the document.

Claim 38 recites revising the document by the second user to form a revised document and prompting the first user to approve the revised document.

Claim 39 recites that prompting the second user comprises an e-mail to the second user.

Claim 40 recites the step of locking the document when the second user approves the document.

Claim 41 further refines claim 33 and recites that the document is selected from a group consisting of an assignment, an agreement and a power of attorney. Claims 37-41 are similar to claims described above. Therefore, their basis is set forth above.

## **VI. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal**

The following issues are presented in this appeal:

Whether claim 33 and the intervening claim fail to comply with the written description requirement.

Whether claims 12-15 and 20-26 are anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by *Morris* (WO 01/08031).

Whether claims 1-11, 16-22, 27-33, and 37-41 are obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Morris* in view of *Graziano* (5,191,613).

## **VII. Argument**

### **The Rejection of Claim 33 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph**

In the Advisory Action the Examiner failed to enter the language desired into claim 33 in the step of “generating an approval log comprising a date of approval by all inventors.” This was changed from “generating an approval log comprising a date of approval by the first user.” In his rejection, the Examiner states that the disclosure does not support a date of an approval log by all inventors. Appellant respectfully submits that a date of approval by *all inventors* is set forth in the specification. First, the date stamp is described on page 17, line 6. That is, the date stamp is one of the items that may be shared between the docket

system and the online invention disclosure system. Original claims 3 and 22 each recite that the approval log comprises the step of recording the date of an approval. As set forth on page 14, line 15, "Preferably, an approval log becomes associated with the invention disclosure once all the inventors approve the invention disclosure in step 126." Although the phrase "generating an approval log comprises a date of approval by the first user" is not neatly expressed in one place within the specification, Appellant respectfully submits that a date of approval by the first user is set forth in the specification. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 33 and intervening claims.

### **The Rejection of Claims 12-15 and 20-26**

#### **Claim 12**

Claim 12 is directed to an invention disclosure system that includes a user computer, a web server having an identification subsystem, and a database coupled to the server. The server provides screens to users so the users provide disclosure information to the server. The server receives disclosure information from said users, stores the information in the database, prompts the users to provide a password associated with the disclosure, and allows access to the disclosure after storing information in the database upon entering the password associated with the user. Appellant respectfully submits that the *Morris* reference does not teach or suggest a password associated with the disclosure. The Examiner points to page 13, lines 1-17, for the proposition of an identification subsystem. The Examiner also points to pages 14 and 22 for this proposition. Page 22 describes that a scientist or engineer logs into the system by entering a user name and password. However, no teaching or suggestion is provided for a password that is associated with the disclosure. The password described in the *Morris* reference is associated with the inventor.

In the Final Office Action the Examiner points to page 13, lines 11-17, for disclosing a password associated with the disclosure. Appellant has reviewed this section and is not in agreement with the proposition that, "Morris discloses authenticating a scientist as author of the document that could be password protected and also suggests using any technology known in the art." Although Appellant agrees that an electronic signature is used to authenticate himself as a witness or inventor, no teaching or suggestion is provided for a password that is associated with the disclosure in this section. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 12.

### **Claim 13**

Claim 13 recites that a directory system is coupled to the server whereby upon providing identification information to the server the server retrieves the user information from the directory system in response to the identification information. The Examiner points to page 11, lines 12 *et. seq.* for this teaching. Appellant has reviewed this section and can find no teaching or suggestion for retrieving the user information from the directory system in response to identification information. Access control is described in the *Morris* document but, the *Morris* reference does not teach or suggest retrieving user information based upon identification information. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 13.

### **Claim 14**

Claim 14 recites that the server creates a user log. The Examiner points to page 12, line 1 *et. seq.* for a user log. Appellant can find no teaching of a user log on page 12 of the *Morris* reference. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 14.

### **Claim 15**

Claim 15 recites a further limitation of claim 14 wherein the server associates the approval log with the disclosure. Appellant can find no teaching or suggestion regarding associating an approval log with a disclosure. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 15.

### **Claim 20**

With respect to claim 20, the Examiner points to page 14, lines 1-10, page 11, page 12 *et. seq.*, and page 12 for locking the disclosure. Appellant has reviewed these portions of the *Morris* reference and can find no teaching or suggestion for locking the disclosure. Page 14, lines 1-10, describe a system for signing off "on the application." However, no teaching or suggestion is provided in the passage for locking the disclosure after approval of all the inventors. Page 11, line 12 *et. seq.* describes limiting access to the invention record but does not teach or suggest locking the disclosure to prevent further editing. In fact, the *Morris* reference teaches on page 13, lines 18 through page 14, line 9, that the patent attorney or business manager may use the information to form a patent application. That is, the attorney can edit patent application 66 to add text into the background summary and claims fields. The Examiner also refers the Appellant to claims 3 and 4 of the *Morris* reference. These claims merely recite that a person has witnessed the invention disclosure. This does not refer to



locking a disclosure. It is common for patent departments to provide spaces on disclosure forms for witnessing the invention. Witnessing the invention is performed by persons other than the inventors. In response to the above remarks, in the Final Office Action the Examiner states, "A digital signature can be appended to the disclosure to lock the disclosure." The Examiner provides no support for this in his comments on page 3 of the Final Office Action. The Examiner then cites page 22, lines 23-29, for locking the disclosure. Appellant respectfully submits that lines 23-29 of page 22 of the *Morris* reference does not teach or suggest locking the disclosure. Rather, a verification window requests that the user verifies the correctness of the information. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 20.

#### **Claim 21**

Claim 21 recites generating an approval log. This is similar to that set forth with respect to claim 14 above. Claim 21 in combination with claim 20 is believed to be allowable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 14.

#### **Claim 22**

Claim 22 recites that the approval log comprises recording the date of an approval. The Examiner points to pages 13 and 21 of the *Morris* reference for recording the date of an approval. Appellant can find no teaching or suggestion in either claims 13 or 21 for a date of an approval. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 22.

#### **Claim 23**

Claim 23 recites associating the approval log with the disclosure. The Examiner points to page 21 for associating an approval log with the disclosure. Appellant can find no teaching or suggestion on page 21 of the *Morris* reference for an approval log. Claim 21 specifically refers to filing a disclosure but presents no teaching of an approval log. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 23.

#### **Claim 24**

Claim 24 is dependent upon claim 6 and recites locking the disclosure when the second user approves the disclosure. As mentioned above, Appellant can find no teaching or suggestion for locking a disclosure. The portions pointed to by the Examiner merely teach an electronic signature.

**Claim 25**

Claim 25 further limits claim 7 and recites that locking the disclosure is performed when the first user approves the revised invention disclosure. As mentioned above with respect to claim 24, no teaching or suggestion is provided for locking a disclosure in the *Morris* reference. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 25.

**Claim 26**

Claim 26 is dependent upon claim 8 and sets forth that an e-mail to the second inventor comprises an e-mail having a hyperlink to the disclosure. The Examiner points to page 16, lines 6-10, and page 8, lines 8 *et. seq.* for a hyperlink to a disclosure. Appellant agrees that notifying by e-mail an inventor that the application was filed is set forth on page 16. Page 8 of the disclosure teaches linking various portions of the documents. However, no teaching or suggestion is provided for providing an e-mail with a hyperlink therein. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 26.

**The Rejection of Claims 1-11, 16-22, 27-33, and 37-41****Claim 1**

Claim 1 recites forming an invention disclosure on-line by entering a plurality of selected information including a first inventor identification information from a user computer, as the plurality of selected information is entered into the computer, storing the selected information in a central storage location, prompting approval of all inventors and after approval of all inventors locking the disclosure to prevent further editing of the disclosure. As mentioned above, Appellant has reviewed the *Morris* reference and can find no teaching or suggestion for locking the disclosure. The Examiner agrees by stating, "*Morris* does not explicitly [state] locking the disclosure after approval to prevent further editing." The *Graziano* reference is cited for locking the disclosure. Appellant was directed to Col. 12, lines 21-28. However, to place that paragraph in context, Appellant respectfully requests the Board to consider lines 8-20 of Col. 12 in conjunction with lines 21-28. These sections refer to editing of a file "contract." The file contract is referred to as the document of interest in Col. 11, line 6. In line 11 of Col. 12. A reference is made to editing capability by way of phone sets and terminals. The parties may agree to store and not authenticate a file. This initiates a locking by file lock software 202 which disconnects the parties from the communications and proceeds to store and lock the file contract in memory. This prevents any user from editing the document alone. When

authentication is desired in the next paragraph, one of the parties may elect to authenticate it. When one of the parties elects to authenticate the file, file lock software is used to place the file contract in a read only mode for authentication purposes. The file may then be distributed as described. It appears that the locking is a different type of locking than that set forth in claim 1. As recited in claim 1, "As the plurality of selected information is entered in the computer, storing the selected information in a central location, prompting approval of all inventors, and after approval by all inventors locking the disclosure to prevent further editing of the disclosure. Thus, it is an approval that is prompted that allows the locking of the disclosure. In the case of Col. 12, lines 8-35 of Graziano reference, when authentication is not performed, the document is locked. That is, the document may only be edited by all of the inventors. In the present application, although not recited, one user may autonomously amend the disclosure information. It is not until every user is prompted for approval and approves the document that the actual locking takes place. Therefore, the Graziano reference actually teaches away from the steps recited in claim 1. Therefore, even a combination of the Graziano reference and the Morris reference do not provide each of the steps of the present application. No teaching or suggestion is provided for a modification of the references in such a manner. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 1.

#### **Claim 2**

Claim 2 recites an approval log. As mentioned above, neither the *Morris* reference nor the *Graziano* reference teaches or suggests an approval log. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 2.

#### **Claim 3**

Claim 3 recites the step of generating an approval log comprises recording the date of an approval. Appellant has discussed the date of an approval with respect to claims 33 and 22 above. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reconsider this rejection as well.

#### **Claim 4**

Claim 4 recites associating the approval log with the disclosure. Appellant discussed this specific claim with respect to claim 24 above. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reconsider this claim in combination with claim 1.

**Claim 5**

Claim 5 recites that the forming is performed by a non-inventor author. The Examiner points to page 13 of the *Morris* reference for teaching a non-inventor author. Appellant can find no teaching or suggestion that the information in the invention disclosure is provided by a non-inventor author. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reconsider the rejection of claim 5.

**Claim 6**

Claim 6 recites identifying a second inventor, notifying the second inventor, and prompting the second inventor to approve the invention disclosure. Appellant can find no teaching or suggestion on page 13 for notifying a second inventor and prompting the second inventor to approve the invention disclosure. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 6.

**Claim 7**

Claim 7 recites that the second inventor forms a revised disclosure and prompts the inventor to approve the revised disclosure. The Examiner points to page 13 and claims 3, 4, 82, and 83 of the *Morris* reference for this teaching. Appellant has reviewed page 13 and can find no teaching or suggestion for a second inventor to form a revised disclosure and prompting the first inventor to approve the revised disclosure. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 7.

**Claim 8**

Claim 8 further recites prompting the second inventor comprises providing an e-mail to the second inventor. Although e-mails as to the status of the disclosure are set forth in the *Morris* reference, no teaching or suggestion is provided in the *Morris* reference for an e-mail to notify the second inventor and prompt the second inventor to approve the invention disclosure. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 8.

**Claim 9**

Claim 9 recites prompting the approval of an associated document. The Examiner points to page 13, lines 18 through page 14 are cited for this proposition. Appellant has reviewed pages 13-14 and can find no teaching or suggestion for prompting the approval of an associated document. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 9.

**Claim 10**

Claim 10 specifically recites that the associated document comprises an assignment and a power of attorney. Appellant can also find no teaching or suggestion of an associated document such as an assignment and a power of attorney. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 10.

**Claim 11**

Claim 11 recites allowing access to various users for obtaining the information. Appellant agrees that allowing access to various users such as managers is set forth in the *Morris* reference. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 11.

**Claim 16**

Claim 16 is an independent claim that includes a user computer, a server, a database coupled to the server wherein the server provides user screens to the users to prompt the users to provide disclosure information to the server, receive disclosure information from the users including a first inventor identification and a second inventor identification, storing information in the database, prompting the first inventor and the second inventor to provide an approval and locking the disclosure to prevent editing after approval by the first inventor and the second inventor. As mentioned above with respect to claim 1, Appellant respectfully submits that locking the disclosure to prevent further editing after approval is not taught or suggested in either the *Morris* or *Graziano* references. Claim 16 specifically recites the first and the second inventor provide the approval. Claim 1 is general to an approval. Appellant respectfully submits for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1 that claim 16 is believed to be allowable.

**Claim 17**

Claim 17 is similar to claim 4 above in that an approval log is associated with the disclosure. Appellant believes that claim 17 is allowable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 4.

**Claim 18**

Claim 18 recites that the server associates the approval log with the disclosure. Claim 18 is dependent upon claim 17. Appellant respectfully believes that claim 18 is allowable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claims 17 and 4.

**Claim 19**

Claim 19 recites the retrieval of user information from the directory system in response to identification information. This claim is similar to claim 13 and is believed to be allowable for the same reasons set forth above.

**Claim 27**

Claim 27 recites entering a plurality of information including one or more inventor identifications from one or more inventors to form an invention disclosure from a user computer, storing the information in a central storage location, prompting approval of the one or more inventors, and locking the disclosure to create a locked disclosure to prevent further editing of the disclosure after each of the one or more inventors approves the disclosure. Claim 27 is similar to claims 1 and 20 in that an approval is required and locking the disclosure is set forth. Appellant respectfully submits that claim 27 is allowable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 20 in that no teaching or suggestion is provided in either the *Morris* or the *Graziano* references for obtaining an approval and locking the disclosure to prevent further editing after approval of the disclosure. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 27.

**The Rejection of Claims 28, 29 and 30****Claims 28, 29 and 30**

Claims 28, 29 and 30 correspond to claims 2, 3 and 4 described above. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claims 28, 29 and 30 for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claims 2, 3 and 4.

**The Rejection of Claims 31 and 32****Claims 31 and 32**

Claims 31 and 32 correspond to claims 8 and 26. Appellant therefore believes claims 31 and 32 are allowable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claims 8 and 26.

**The Rejection of Claim 33****Claim 33**

Claim 33 includes the step of forming a document online by entering a plurality of selected information including a first user identification information from a user computer, storing

the selected information in a central storage location, prompting approval of the first user, generating an approval log comprising a date of approval by the first user and associating the approval log with a document. As mentioned above with respect to claim 2, no teaching or suggestion is provided for an approval log or associating an approval log with the document. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claim 33.

### **The Rejection of Claims 37-41**

#### **Claims 37-41**

Claims 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41 correspond to claims 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 above. Appellant respectfully submits that each of these elements is not set forth in either of the two references. Appellant therefore respectfully requests the Board to reverse the Examiner's position with respect to claims 37-41.

#### **VII. Appendix**

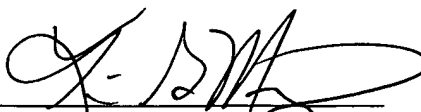
A copy of each of the claims involved in this appeal, namely claims 2-17 is attached hereto as Appendix A.

#### **X. Conclusion**

For the foregoing reasons, Appellant respectfully requests that the Board direct the Examiner in charge of this examination to withdraw the rejections.

Please charge any fees required in the filing of this appeal to deposit account 06-1510 or, if there are insufficient funds, to use deposit account 06-1505.

Respectfully submitted,



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## APPENDIX

1. A method of forming an online invention disclosure comprising:  
forming an invention disclosure online by entering a plurality of selected information including a first inventor identification information from a user computer;  
as the plurality of selected information is entered into the user computer, storing the selected information in a central storage location;  
prompting approval of said first inventor; and  
after approval locking the disclosure to prevent further editing of the disclosure.
2. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of generating an approval log.
3. A method as recited in claim 2 wherein the step of generating an approval log comprises recording the date of an approval.
4. A method as recited in claim 3 further comprising associating the approval log with the disclosure.
5. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein forming is performed by a non-inventor author.
6. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the step of forming comprises identifying a second inventor; and,  
further comprising the steps of notifying the second inventor; and, prompting the second inventor to approve the invention disclosure.
7. A method as recited in claim 6 further comprising revising the disclosure by the second inventor to form a revised disclosure, and prompting the first inventor to approve the revised disclosure.
8. A method as recited in claim 6 wherein prompting the second inventor comprises providing an E-mail to the second inventor.



9. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein prompting comprises the step of prompting the approval of an associated document.

10. A method as recited in claim 9 wherein said associated document is selected from a group consisting of an assignment document and a power of attorney.

11. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising allowing access to various users for obtaining the information.

12. An invention disclosure system comprising: a user computer;  
a web server having an identification subsystem; and a database coupled to the server;

said server providing user screens to said users so users provide disclosure information to said server, receiving disclosure information from said users, storing information in said database, prompting the user to provide a password associated with said disclosure; and allowing access to said disclosure after storing information in said database upon entering the password associated with the disclosure.

13. A system as recited in claim 12 further comprising a directory system coupled to said server whereby upon providing identification information to server said server retrieves user information from the directory system in response to the identification information.

14. A system as recited in claim 12 wherein said server creates a user log.

15. A system as recited in claim 14 wherein said server associates said approval log with said disclosure.

16. An invention disclosure system comprising: a user computer;  
a server;  
a database coupled to the server;  
said server providing user screens to said users to prompt said users to provide disclosure information to said server, receiving disclosure information from said users including a first inventor identification and a second inventor identification, storing information in said database, prompting the first inventor and the second inventor to provide an approval, locking

the disclosure to prevent further editing after the approval by the first inventor and the second inventor.

17. A system as recited in claim 16 wherein said server generated an approval log associated with said disclosure.

18. A system as recited in claim 17 wherein said server associates said approval log with said disclosure.

19. A system as recited in claim 16 further comprising a directory system coupled to said server whereby upon providing identification information to server, said server retrieves user information from the directory system in response to the identification information.

20. A method of forming an online invention disclosure comprising:  
forming an invention disclosure online by entering a plurality of selected information including a first inventor identification information and a second inventor identification from a user computer;  
as the plurality of selected information is entered into the user computer, storing the information in a central storage location;  
prompting approval of said first inventor; notifying the second inventor; and, prompting the second inventor to approve the disclosure; and  
locking the disclosure to create a locked disclosure to prevent further editing of the disclosure when the second inventor approves the disclosure.

21. A method as recited in claim 20 further comprising the step of generating an approval log.

22. A method as recited in claim 21 wherein the step of generating an approval log comprises the step of recording the date of an approval.

23. A method as recited in claim 22 further comprising associating the approval log with the disclosure.

24. A method as recited in claim 6 further comprising locking the disclosure when the second user approves the disclosure.

25. A method as recited in claim 7 further comprising locking the disclosure when the first user approves the revised invention disclosure.

26. A method as recited in claim 8 wherein providing an E-mail to the second inventor comprises providing an E-mail to the second inventor having a hyperlink to the disclosure therein.

27. A method of forming an online invention disclosure comprising:  
entering a plurality of information including one or more inventor identifications from one or more inventors to form an invention disclosure from a user computer;  
storing the information in a central storage location; prompting approval of the one or more inventors;  
locking the disclosure to create a locked disclosure to prevent further editing of the disclosure after each of the one or more inventors approve the disclosure.

28. A method as recited in claim 27 further comprising generating an approval log.

29. A method as recited in claim 28 wherein generating an approval log comprises recording the date of an approval from each of the one or more inventors.

30. A method as recited in claim 27 further comprising associating the approval log with the disclosure.

31. A method as recited in claim 27 wherein prompting comprises prompting the one or more inventor comprises providing an E-mail to the one or more inventors.

32. A method as recited in claim 31 wherein providing an E-mail to the one or more inventors comprises providing an E-mail to the one or more inventors having a hyperlink to the disclosure therein.

33. A method of forming an online document comprising:  
forming a document online by entering a plurality of selected information including a first user identification information from a user computer;  
storing the selected information in a central storage location; prompting approval of said first user;  
generating an approval log comprising a date of approval by the first user; and  
associating the approval log with the document.

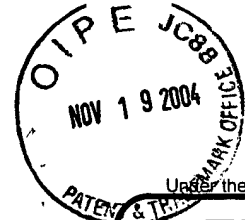
37. A method as recited in claim 33 wherein the step of forming comprises identifying a second user; and,  
further comprising the steps of notifying the second user; and, prompting the second user to approve the document.

38. A method as recited in claim 37 further comprising revising the document by the second user to form a revised document, and prompting the first user to approve the revised document.

39. A method as recited in claim 37 wherein prompting the second user comprises providing an E-mail to the second user.

40. A method as recited in claim 37 further comprising locking the document when the second user approves the document.

41. A method as recited in claim 33 wherein said document is selected from a group consisting of an assignment document, an agreement and a power of attorney.



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# FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2005

Effective 10/01/2004. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$ 340.00

## Complete if Known

Application Number	09/558,192
Filing Date	04/26/2000
First Named Inventor	Narasimhaswamy et al
Examiner Name	Colin, Carl G.
Art Unit	2133
Attorney Docket No.	199-1408 (FGT-1307 PA)

## METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)

☐ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other ☐ None

☒ Deposit Account:

Deposit Account Number  
Deposit Account Name

Ford Global Technologies

06-1510

The Director is authorized to: (check all that apply)

☒ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☒ Credit any overpayments

☒ Charge any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s)

☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.

## FEE CALCULATION

### 1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
1001	790	2001	395	Utility filing fee	
1002	350	2002	175	Design filing fee	
1003	550	2003	275	Plant filing fee	
1004	790	2004	395	Reissue filing fee	
1005	160	2005	80	Provisional filing fee	
SUBTOTAL (1)					(\$)

### 2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE

Total Claims		Extra Claims		Fee from below		Fee Paid
Independent Claims		-20** =		X		
Multiple Dependent		-3** =		X		

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)	
1202	18	2202	9	Claims in excess of 20
1201	88	2201	44	Independent claims in excess of 3
1203	300	2203	150	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
1204	88	2204	44	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
1205	18	2205	9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2)

(\$)

\*\*or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

## FEE CALCULATION (continued)

### 3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
1051	130	2051	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1052	50	2052	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
1053	130	1053	130	Non-English specification	
1812	2,520	1812	2,520	For filing a request for ex parte reexamination	
1804	920*	1804	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
1805	1,840*	1805	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1251	110	2251	55	Extension for reply within first month	
1252	430	2252	215	Extension for reply within second month	
1253	980	2253	490	Extension for reply within third month	
1254	1,530	2254	765	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255	2,080	2255	1,040	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401	340	2401	170	Notice of Appeal	
1402	340	2402	170	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	340.00
1403	300	2403	150	Request for oral hearing	
1451	1,510	1451	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
1452	110	2452	55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
1453	1,370	2453	685	Petition to revive - unintentional	
1501	1,370	2501	685	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
1502	490	2502	245	Design issue fee	
1503	660	2503	330	Plant issue fee	
1460	130	1460	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
1807	50	1807	50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
1806	180	1806	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
8021	40	8021	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
1809	790	2809	395	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))	
1810	790	2810	395	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))	
1801	790	2801	395	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
1802	900	1802	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	
Other fee (specify)					
*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid					
SUBTOTAL (3)					(\$ 340.00

## SUBMITTED BY

(Complete if applicable)

Name (Print/Type)	Kevin G. Mierzwa	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	38,049	Telephone	248-223-9500
Signature		Date	11/17/04		

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